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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Hiroyuki Hagano et al. :
Application No. 10/622,776 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: July 21, 2003 : PURSUANT TO
Attorney Docket No. 26D-010 : 37 C.F.R. § 1.181(A)
Title: RESIN MEMBER AND METHOD :
OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME :

BACKGROUND

This is a decision on the petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.181(a), filed June 13, 2007, to withdraw the holding of abandonment.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to submit the issue and publication fees in a timely manner in reply to the Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, mailed January 24, 2007, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three months. No extensions of time are permitted for transmitting issue or publication fees¹. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on April 25, 2007. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on May 23, 2007.

RELEVANT PORTION OF THE MPEP

MPEP §711.03(c)(I)(A) sets forth, *in toto*:

In *Delgar v. Schulyer*, 172 USPQ 513 (D.D.C. 1971), the court decided that the Office should mail a new Notice of Allowance in view of the evidence presented in support of the contention that the applicant's representative did not receive the original Notice of Allowance. Under the reasoning of *Delgar*, an allegation that an Office action was never received may be considered in a

¹ See MPEP § 710.02(e).

Decision on Petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.181(a)

petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment. If adequately supported, the Office may grant the petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment and remail the Office action. That is, the reasoning of Delgar is applicable regardless of whether an application is held abandoned for failure to timely pay the issue fee (35 U.S.C. 151) or for failure to prosecute (35 U.S.C. 133).

To minimize costs and burdens to practitioners and the Office, the Office has modified the showing required to establish nonreceipt of an Office action. The showing required to establish nonreceipt of an Office communication must include a statement from the practitioner stating that the Office communication was not received by the practitioner and attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office communication was not received. A copy of the docket record where the nonreceived Office communication would have been entered had it been received and docketed must be attached to and referenced in practitioner's statement (emphasis added). For example, if a three month period for reply was set in the nonreceived Office action, a copy of the docket report showing all replies docketed for a date three months from the mail date of the nonreceived Office action must be submitted as documentary proof of nonreceipt of the Office action.

The showing outlined above may not be sufficient if there are circumstances that point to a conclusion that the Office action may have been lost after receipt rather than a conclusion that the Office action was lost in the mail (e.g., if the practitioner has a history of not receiving Office actions).

Evidence of nonreceipt of an Office communication or action (e.g., Notice of Abandonment or an advisory action) other than that action to which reply was required to avoid abandonment would not warrant withdrawal of the holding of abandonment. Abandonment takes place by operation of law for failure to reply to an Office action or timely pay the issue fee, not by operation of the mailing of a Notice of Abandonment. See Lorenz v. Finkl, 333 F.2d 885, 889-90, 142 USPQ 26, 29-30 (CCPA 1964); Krahn v. Commissioner, 15 USPQ2d 1823, 1824 (E.D. Va 1990); In re Application of Fischer, 6 USPQ2d 1573, 1574 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

ANALYSIS

The showing in the present petition is not sufficient to withdraw the holding of abandonment because it is incomplete.

Petitioner has included a statement that a thorough search of the file jacket and docket records were conducted.

Petitioner has further included a copy of a screenshot of the "Posz Law Group Case Tracking System," which serves as the docket record where the non-received Office communication would have been entered and docketed, however **the copy of the docket record that was provided is not legible**. The copy is rather dark, and the text that appears within the same cannot be discerned. As such, it does not appear that the copy that Petitioner has submitted is electronically reproducible. A copy of the submission as it appears in the electronic file has been included with this decision.

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It follows that the present petition must be **DISMISSED**.

CONCLUSION

Any reply must be submitted within **TWO MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are permitted. The reply should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.181(a)." This is not a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C § 704. The renewed petition should indicate in a prominent manner that the attorney handling this matter is Paul Shanowski, and may be submitted by mail², hand-delivery³, or facsimile⁴. Registered users of EFS-Web may alternatively submit a response to this decision via EFS-Web⁵. **On renewed petition, Petitioner may wish to consider submitting a lighter copy of this docket record.**

If responding by mail, Petitioner is advised not to place the undersigned's name on the envelope. Only the information that appears in the footnote should be included - adding anything else to the address will delay the delivery of the response to the undersigned.

Telephone inquiries **regarding this decision** should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3225⁶. All other inquiries concerning examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.



Paul Shanowski
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Encl. Copy of docket record as it appears in the electronic file

2 Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

3 Customer Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulaney Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314.

4 (571) 273-8300- please note this is a central facsimile number.

5 <https://sportal.uspto.gov/authenticate/authenticateuserlocalepf.html>

6 Petitioner will note that all practice before the Office should be in writing, and the action of the Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.2. As such, Petitioner is reminded that no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for any further action(s) of Petitioner.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): HAGANO	Atty. Dkt.: 26D-010-RCE
Serial No.: 10/622,776	Group Art Unit: 1751
Filed: July 21, 2003	Examiner: Mark Kopec
Title: RESIN MEMBER AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME	Date of Allowance: January 24, 2007 Confirmation No.: 4241
Attn: PETITIONS BRANCH Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA 22314	
Date: June 13, 2007	

EXHIBIT A
Posz Law Group Case Tracking System

The Notice of Allowance would have been entered here if it had been received and docketed.

Copy of docket record as it appears in the electronic file